



# WHAT'S UP, DACC?

FEBRUARY 2021



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## SPREAD THE LOVE!

Your valentine awaits you at the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) Animal Care Centers (ACC)! For dogs that have been at an ACC for 14 days or longer, adoption fees will be reduced to \$14 from February 14-20, 2021. Fees for cats are reduced to \$14 during the entire month of February. Both promotions include adoption, microchip, vaccination and spay/neuter fees, but not license or trust deposits. Adopt this month and help Spread the Love!



“

*Pets have long been recognized as important resources for reducing anxiety and stress. Just petting or playing with a pet can reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure, and release endorphins that have calming effects on our bodies and minds.”*

## HAVE YOU HUGGED YOUR PETS TODAY?

BY DACC DIRECTOR MARCIA MAYEDA

I think everyone gave a sigh of relief at midnight on December 31, 2020. The most troubling and stressful year in recent memory was finally over. A devastating pandemic, social and physical isolation, widespread unemployment and business loss, a national spotlight on the very real issue of racial inequality, damaging riots and looting, and an extremely divisive and disputed presidential election all weighed heavily on peoples' emotions. We all looked forward to seeing improvements in 2021. Then on January 6, 2021, an unprecedented assault on our very foundation of democracy hit us like a ton of bricks. A new, more contagious variant of the coronavirus is threatening us in 2021, as well as fears of continued assaults on our government and the rule of law.

Amidst these worrisome and frightening scenarios, there is a source of unconditional love in our homes that can help ease our minds as we grapple with the uncertain world. Of course, I am talking about our pets. Pets have long been recognized as important resources for reducing anxiety and stress. Just petting or playing with a pet can reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure, and release endorphins that have calming effects on our bodies and minds. Exercising with pets, such as walking a dog or riding a horse, enhance our physical health and help to reduce depression. Pets are especially impactful as we face the challenges of social isolation, providing companionship and structured routines throughout each day. The unconditional love of an animal helps us buffer the stressors that enter our lives.

View the full blog and all of Director Mayeda's previous blogs [HERE!](#)



Adopt a cat for only \$14

*Throughout February*

Adopt a long-stay dog  
(in care 14 days or longer)  
for only \$14

*February 14-20, 2021*

Includes adoption, microchip, spay/neuter and vaccination fees.  
License fees and trust deposits not included, if applicable.



*Spread the  
Love*



find the pawfect valentine this year

# WE NEED THEM AS MUCH AS THEY NEED US

## INTERVIEW WITH NANCY HODGES

Nancy Hodges is an Animal Care Attendant who has worked at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center for about two years. She came to DACC after working with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) primarily as the cat liaison coordinator. Nancy was kind enough to take a moment to shed some light on her day-to-day duties, as well as her current relationship with her cherished pets.



### Can you describe your typical workday?

*My typical workday all depends on what tasks I am given, but most important is that the kennels are clean, all animals' water bowls are filled, they have blankets for comfort, and that their health is regularly monitored.*

Nancy has three cats and one dog of her own: Obi, Maggie, and Raven (her kitties) and Olivia (her dog). All of Nancy's pets were animals that she initially fostered and just didn't have the heart to part with—a sentiment that any animal foster caretaker can empathize with. Nancy continues to foster and says her pets help socialize the fosters by teaching them play styles and how to use the litter box.

### How do your pets help you cope with stress?

*I firmly believe that animals can sense when their owners are stressed. When I've had a tough day, walking through the door to tail wags and leg rubs just makes my day! Something so small as my cats meowing and following me makes me laugh and I simply let go of all the stress.*

### What part of your job do you find to be the most meaningful?

*Knowing that I've made a difference in an animal's life. For example, when an animal comes to the care center underweight, matted, dirty, hungry, or scared, it's overwhelming for them. Working with them day in and day out, and seeing them slowly come out of their shells. And when the day comes that they get adopted—tail wagging, children laughing, hugging their new family member—that's what makes it worth it all.*

*I want to thank my team, my command staff, my supervisor, Sgt. Frank Medina, and especially the medical staff here. Recently, there was a German Shepherd named Apollo who came in behaving very fearfully. He attempted to bite and would not stop shaking. I would visit him every day in front of his kennel and, one day, one of our vet technicians, Ramon Beltran, assisted me in taking Apollo out of his cage, then his personality just came out. He was very playful, affectionate, and loved to run and get treats! He was adopted by a great family and it was an incredibly bittersweet moment to see Apollo go, but he was the perfect example of how we all work together to better the lives of these animals.*

It can be highly stressful for an animal brought to an animal care center, which is why it's important that they have opportunities to de-stress. It's not uncommon for a dog to display warning signs when uncomfortable, such as snapping when being handled. However, with repeated positive interactions, set at the dog's pace, they can open up in our care where we can learn more about them and help match them to the ideal family.



# JANUARY ADOPTIONS



DACC CELEBRATES

# 917 ADOPTIONS

IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021

this includes 192 cats, 656 dogs  
and 69 other animals



# JANUARY NEWS

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

Nine-year old Lilah raised \$700 for **@healthcareforhomelessanimals** (HHA) by selling her homemade canine cheese treats. HHA is a volunteer-run non-profit that raises funds to provide medical care for animals at the Agoura Animal Care Center. Thank you to Lilah for generous donation, and also for the delicious treats that she shared with our dogs!



FIND AN ANIMAL CARE CENTER NEAR YOU!

### Baldwin Park:

4275 N. Elton Street  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
[baldwinpark@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:baldwinpark@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Carson/Gardena:

216 W. Victoria Street  
Gardena, CA 90248  
[carson@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:carson@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Downey:

11258 S. Garfield Ave.  
Downey, CA 90242  
[downeyctaip@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:downeyctaip@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Castaic:

31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd.  
Castaic, CA 91384  
[castaic@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:castaic@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Agoura:

29525 Agoura Road  
Agoura Hills, CA 91303  
[agoura@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:agoura@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Lancaster:

5210 W. Avenue I  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
[acclancaster@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:acclancaster@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Palmdale:

38550 Sierra Highway  
Palmdale, CA 93550  
[palmdale@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:palmdale@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

**Interested in Fostering?**  
Click [HERE!](#)

**Licensing Questions?**  
Call: (562) 345-0400  
Email: [licensing@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:licensing@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

**Interested in Volunteering?**  
Click [HERE!](#)

## ASPCA GRANT

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) awarded a **grant of \$160,300** to the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation. The grant will be used to secure resources to help pet owners in need as part of the DACC Managed Intake Program. This program seeks to enable people to solve the problems to prevent them from having to relinquish their beloved pets.



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

For the latest DACC updates, and for heartwarming stories from around our animal care centers, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



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